(b) if so, whether Government has lately gone into the main causes of such a drastic decline;

(c) what are the main items of exports which have largely suffered; and

(d) whether any new policy or strategy has been worked out to restore India's due place in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) India's share in world exports declined after independence as world exports increased at rapid pace. However, the decline was contained during the 1980s and thereafter India's share in world exports started rising. According to Economic Survey-2004-05, Government of India, India's share in world exports rose from 0.6% in 1999 to 0.7% in 2001. In 2002, India attained 0.8% share in world exports which was broadly maintained in 2003 also. Thus there has been no decline in India's share in world exports in the recent past.

(d) Yes, Sir. A New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was announced in August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's share of global merchandise trade within the next five years. Some of the key strategies adopted in the FTP include: simplification of procedures, reduction in transaction cost, neutralisation of incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used for exports, identification of special focus areas like agriculture, handlooms, handicraft, gems and jewellery, leather and footwear for further promotion. In addition Export Promotion Schemes like 'Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna' (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) and 'Target Plus' have been introduced to further accelerate growth of exports.

Marketing Assistance to exporters

170. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporters have made a demand to Government to increase marketing assistance for exporters in keeping with the norms laid down by WTO;

(b) what specific demands have been made by exporters for enhanced marketing assistance;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to this demand;

(d) whether exporters have demanded that 0.5 percent of the exports earnings be given as marketing assistance to exporters as against the fixed total sum of Rs. 50 crores per year; and

(e) what are the reasons for Government not implementing this demand in the interest of increasing exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Steps to increase flower exports

171. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making any special efforts to increase export of flowers from various Southern States;

(b) whether any study has been done on the export potential of flowers;

(c) if so, the details of this study;

(d) what additional steps are proposed to be taken to give emphasis to the export of flowers;

(e) whether any market or exchange will be set up for floral exports in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) The State Government of Tamil Nadu had conducted feasibility studies for the development of two Agri Export Zones (AEZs) for floriculture in the districts of Dharmapuri and Nilgiris.